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ABSTRACT

This book explores the policies, debates, and controversies that have emerged as British education has developed in response to the ethnic diversity and multicultural nature of contemporary society. The three major dimensions of educational concern in the face of the social change resulting from increased diversity are the rapidity of the change, the breadth of new educational policy, and the intense nature of the debates and episodes in its evolution. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the development of cultural and ethnic diversity in Britain. Chapter 2 outlines the development of educational responses, including ideological responses, central and local government policy development, and the implications of these policies for the school curriculum. Racism in society and the schools is addressed in chapter 3, with a discussion of teaching about race and race relations. Chapter 4 summarizes four of the major episodes of conflict concerned with multicultural education in the 1980s, and the final chapter raises questions about the effects on schools and the possibilities of continued progress in education for cultural diversity under the Education Reform Act and the British National Curriculum. (Contains 2 figures, 8 tables, and 117 references.) (SLD)

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